

Architectural Profile

Prepared for: Zara Investment Industries

Created by: ShamsArd Design Studio

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Services:

Architectural Design
Landscape Design
Interior Design
Earth-Construction Training
Construction Supervision
Construction Management

Clients:

Tamer Institute **Rebuilding Alliance** Al-Sakakini Cultural Center Birzeit University Museum Ramallah Friends School A.M. Qattan Foundation Welfare Association Ramallah Municipality Heinrich Boll Stiftung Fredrich Ubert Foundation **UNESCO** Palestine Museum Gallery One Rozana Cultural Center Bethlehem Children Museum Arini Creative Platforms Maan Development Center Mosaic Hotel-Bethlehem **Quakers Meeting House** Al-Mahatta Cooperative- Haifa Terre Des Homme- Italy Light Concept

ShamsArd Design Studio was founded in 2012 by a collective of architects with the goal of finding design solutions that hold social and environmental responsibility at its core. The studio specializes in natural building design and supervision, active and passive solar solutions, wastewater recycling and regenerative landscaping, in addition to ecological interior and furniture design. The studio is based in Ramallah and is registered at the Jordanian Engineering Association as a first degree architectural firm.

In addition to architectural practice, ShamsArd has a research arm that supports the ongoing projects in testing and developing natural building materials and techniques. We conduct regular testing of mixes, compression strength of blocks, develop the design of compression presses, develop earthbag construction techniques, adobe and plaster in addition to developing designs in passive solar heating and cooling. In addition to design, supervision and project management services our firm offers on-site training of builders and contractors in earthen construction and plaster.





Dana Masad Co-Founder, Principal Architect

An architect and specialist in earth construction, Ms. Masad has over 13 years of architectural practice experience at firms in Palestine and the United States. She holds a BA Degree in Architectural Engineering from Birziet University and a Masters degree in Sustainable Design from California Polytechnic State University.



Dima Khoury Architect

An environmentalist and architect with 8 years of architectural experience.
Ms. Khoury holds a BA and MA (French equivalent) from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris Val de Seine with a focus on architectural heritage, and a one-year diploma in environmental education and research.



Lina Saleh Co-Founder, Architect

An architect and specialist in earthen plaster, Ms. Saleh has several years of architectural practical experience and holds a BA Degree in Architectural Engineering from Birziet University and a MA degree in Sustainable Design Studies from Cornell University.



Rami Kasbari Co-Founder, Architect

An architect an specialist in earth construction, Mr. Kasbari holds a BA Degree in Architectural Engineering from Birziet University and is currently pursuing an MA degree in Climatic Design at the Technical University of Munich, Germany.

ARCHITECTURE



FURNITURE & INTERIOR



LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE



Kaykab Ecology Museum, Ramallah 2012

The barrel vaulted building spans a width of 6 meters and is constructed entirely of stabilized compressed earth block from earth excavated on site and nearby. The building is part of the Ramallah Friends School Botanical Garden and demonstrates the strength of and resilience of compressed earth blocks even in mountainous areas such as Ramallah. The building has a malgaf tower for passive cooling and is oriented to allow southern sun to heat the building in the winter with an overhang to prevent summer sun from overheating the interior space



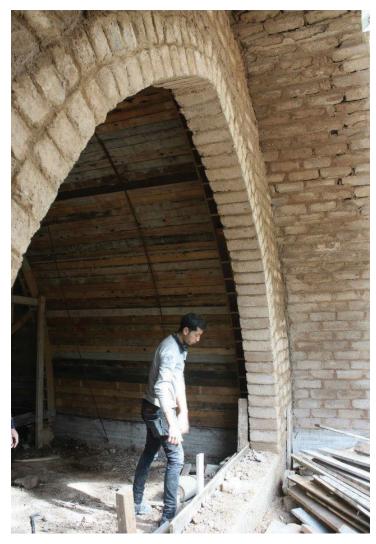








KAYKAB ECOLOGY MUSEUM













Dyouk Women Center Jordan Valley, 2013

The women center serves as a headquarter for several women-run cooperative, the building was commissioned by UNESCO and UN-Women in late 2012 and completed in early 2013. The building is located in the village of Al-Dyouk where earth construction is the traditional building material. The center is built with manually pressed compressed earth blocks. The roofing system consists of barrel vaults and domes and the walls are a series of arches in order to expand the usable area of the floor plan. The building is 100sqm and includes a main meeting hall, restrooms, a kitchen and an office space.











DYOUK WOMEN CENTER









Moon House Jericho, 2013

The building is a quad-dome 84 sam private residence, built entirely of earth using the technique of earthfilled bags. To deal with the extreme heat of summers in the lowest spot on the planet, the house uses many passive solar techniques for comfort, it incorporates natural ventilation technique through a wind-catching tower "Malgaf". The domed rooftop has operable openings at the top that allow for hot air to escape and be replaced by cool air from the Malgaf. The building filters gray water and uses it for irrigation of the surrounding garden, and uses local traditional tiles and all locally made finishes.













MOON HOUSE

















Dyouk Catering Center Dyouk, 2013

Commissioned as an extension to the Dyouk Women Center by Maian Development this 80m2 building was also built using compressed earth blocks, however a semi-automated block compression machine was developed to expedite the process of brick making and decrease the cost. The building consists of a large kitchen and restrooms with an outdoor space being utilized for seating to allow the building to be used as a restaurant during the warm and dry winter months.



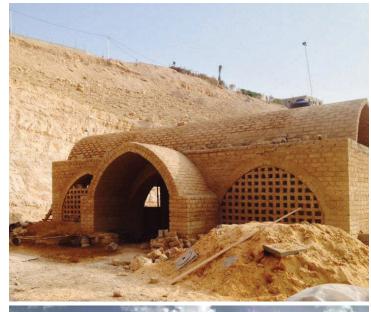








DYOUK CATERING CENTER







Bardala Women Center, 2014

Commissioned by UNESCO the 100sqm building is built using a unique and rare roofing system in earth and that is the cross vaulted roof. With a span of 7 meters and a ceiling height of 5 meters this structure demonstrates the possibilities of compressed earth blocks. The building consists of a meeting room, restrooms and a large kitchen with a northfacing courtyard as the main gathering area as Bardala is in the Northern Jordan Valley with temperate weather for most of the year.





















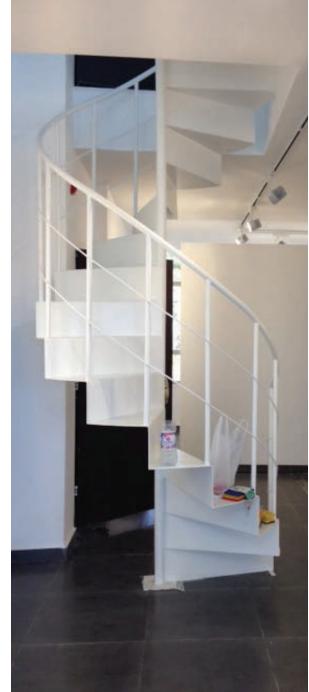


Our interior design portfolio includes an art gallery, a cultural center, a four-star hotel a children museum and more, in addition to our line of original design furniture.

The following photos are taken from the completed projects.

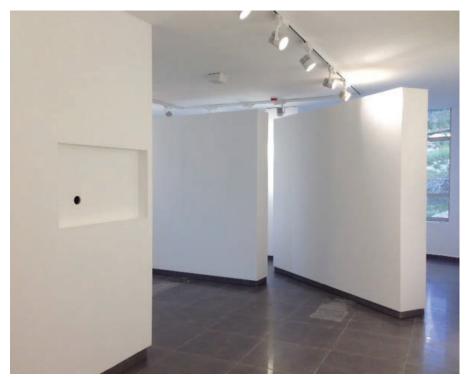




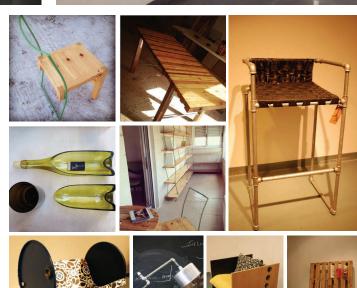




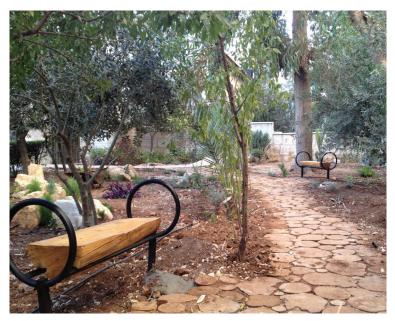








Our landscape design goal is to create a landscape that best responds to the needs of the user and the program of the space while highlighting, as oppose to changing, the natural beauty of each unique landscape. Our design solutions create a landscape that sustains itself, by designing low-maintenance low-energy landscaping systems, using resources such as slope, material and water, efficiently, and using native and drought-tolerant plants. Our previous projects include a meditation garden, streetscape furniture, a permaculture training center, playscapes and more.















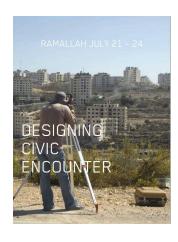






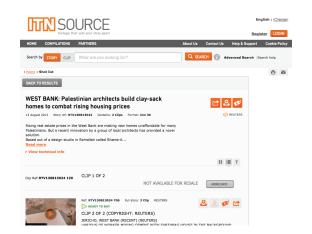






















Building a Better Palestine, From the Ground Up Breaking out of never-ending fighting and occupation may require building a better way forward

One of the first thoughts Danna Masad had about the importance of



